

Minutes
Veneta City Council
April 28, 2008

Council Present: Mayor T. J. Brooker, Thomas Cotter, Darrell Carman, Marion Esty, and Sharon Hobart-Hardin

Staff: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Jerri Moore, Finance Director; Sheryl Hackett, City Recorder; and Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder

Mayor Brooker called the Veneta City Council Executive Session to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION
ORS 102.660(2)(h) - Potential Litigation

Having made no decisions, Mayor Brooker closed the Executive Session of the Veneta City Council at 6:48 p.m. and called the Veneta City Council to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Sharon Hobart-Hardin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Thomas Cotter seconded the motion.
Marion Esty, aye; Thomas Cotter, aye; Mayor Brooker, aye; Darrell Carman, aye; Sharon Hobart-Hardin, aye.

The Consent agenda was approved including Minutes for April 14, 2008, Bills Payable for April, 2008, the Civic Calendar for May, 2008 and the Annual Liquor License Renewals

Sharon Hobart-Hardin brought to staffs' attention that the Veneta Chevron and Car Wash is now the Veneta Gas N Go. She asked staff to look into this matter prior to renewing their liquor license. Staff said they would contact Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. FROM MAYOR/COUNCILORS

- (1) Law Enforcement Activities Report, Sgt. Harrold, LCSO
Sgt. Harrold has been temporarily assigned to the Eugene office. In the interim, Deputy Denham has been filling in for him in Veneta. He thanked the Council for remodeling the deputies office space. He said the Lane County budget cuts slated for May 29, 2008 will create many lay offs in the LCSO. He said the hours of the main office deputies will be reduced to 20 hour coverage and those hours will be scheduled to be the same as Veneta to assure deputies have back-up. As a result, Veneta will no longer benefit from 24 hour coverage. He said the Sheriff is committed to maintaining the contracts with Veneta and Creswell.

Ric said the 2008-09 contract provided by LCSO includes a 20% increase which has been figured into the City's 2008-09 budget.

Sgt. Harrold said the LCSO wants to continue to have contracts with communities, unfortunately, it's unclear what will happen.

Sgt. Harrold said the forest work camp in Alma, the Community Correction Center (CCC) and the road clean up crews all halted operation. He said they will be combining parole and probation with the sheriff's office and are working on saving the CCC but the limited number of beds will impact the number of people not staying in their halfway house.

Sgt. Harrold said Deputy Scott Denham served a trespassing notice on people living in the three homeless camps between Jack Kelley Drive and the railroad tracks. The City worked with the property owner to arrange for the Lane County Work Crews to remove 100 yards of trash from two of the camps. They started on the third camp when they ran out of time. Unfortunately, it is not known where the homeless have gone.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Deputy Denham said the area cannot be accessed by a vehicle but only on foot. He said the camps were hidden very well. He said there was approximately 15 to 20 people living in the three homeless camps.

Ric said the Watters family had been clearing brush on their property when they discovered the camps. He said the work crews cleaned up two camps and almost the third. Ric said there was a huge amount of trash and the lack of bathroom facilities made the area a potential health hazard to the community.

Deputy Denham said the Mongrels motorcycle club is possibly locating in Lane County. He said they are one of the more notorious motorcycle clubs. Sgt. Harrold said recently a member of the Mongrels tried to run a Eugene Police officer and an ATF officer off the freeway in Eugene. He said they have been frequenting Yukon Jack's Restaurant and Bar when they come through the area. Deputy Denham said it has not been determined if any club members are living in the Fern Ridge area. However, it has been determined some club members are living in the Creswell area. He said a few weeks ago they took over a bar in Creswell and made non-club members leave the bar. He said possibly some members of the Free Soul Motorcycle Club want to join the Mongrels. He said the Mongrels wear gray jackets possibly with a patch with the letters "MFFM" which stands for "Mongrel forever-forever Mongrel." Deputy Denham asked everyone to please inform a deputy if they notice any activity. He said law enforcement is not sure what they are doing here but they will monitor the situation.

Sgt. Harrold said automobile thefts have spiked in the area due to a local criminal getting out of jail. He said while this person was in jail, auto thefts virtually stopped. He said upon his release thefts increased. Now that he's back in jail auto thefts have stopped. He said Deputy Denham worked closely with the person's parole officer to get this person a parole sanction. He also said having Christina Doolittle, a Lane County Parole and Probation (P & P) Officer in the Veneta office has been very successful. He said Christina and the four deputies have been working on a format combining P & P with the LCSO staff to show other communities the benefits of combining the two law enforcement entities. The Council thanked Scott for his work.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Ric said he's not sure where the displaced homeless people went. Ric said staff did not contact a shelter or try to relocate the people. Ric apologized for not getting staff involved to look at their options for placing them in a shelter. He said the situation arose quickly after the Watters family started clearing their property and found the camps. Ric said Kyle had the forest work crew scheduled to clean up the Eighth Street overpass last year. He said the homeless camp was discovered just prior to that. Ric said Kyle took advantage of the work crew being here and offered them to Glenn Watters to clean up the camps on his property. Ric said Mr. Watters will reimburse the City for the cost of the forest work crew spending one day cleaning his property.

In response to a question from Craig Harbison, Ric said the City really didn't have time to arrange for an outside social agency to assist with relocating the homeless people in the camps.

b. COUNCIL/COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Sharon Hobart-Hardin said the Second Annual Earth Day sponsored by the Veneta Park Board was a huge success. She said Taunya Jones coordinated

the program last year and this year Gail Wilkie and Lee Taylor-Loewe took over. She said they did a great job. She said a few City staff members attended as well as County Transfer & Recycling. She said there were about 80 to 90 attendees at this year's Earth Day and 60 last year. She thanked everyone for participating. She said people new to the area participated and took advantage of learning about their community and what it can offer.

Mayor Brooker thanked the Park Board for putting on a great Earth Day Celebration.

Ric said Neighbors 4 Responsible Growth and EPUD had information booths. He said 75 volunteer meal tickets were given out. He said the Territorial Sports Program (TSP) volunteers came to Earth Day after they cleaned up their TSP ball fields.

Darrell Carman said he attended the April 24, 2008 LCOG meeting. The main topic of discussion was the Lane County budget and how it will affect the rest of the area. He said the loss of the rural school funds is dismal. He said the County is down 83 million dollars from last year. He said just in the public safety sector that equates to approximately 180 County employees being laid off. He said the bulk of the damage will be seen in public safety, public health and human services, and animal control.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin suggested the Council should schedule a work session to discuss the budget cuts and if and when there will be long term effects from this.

There was much discussion about the County budget cuts among the Councilors. Everyone is frustrated.

5. STAFF REPORTS

a. FINANCE DIRECTOR JERRI MOORE

- (1) Liability Insurance coverage regarding ORWARN Mutual Aide Agreement
Jerri said at the last meeting Kyle brought the Mutual Aide Agreement to the Council for approval. Some Council members requested a legal review and information about liability coverage prior to the City entering into the Agreement. Jerri said she contacted the City's insurance provider and confirmed that the City's insurance coverage is adequate.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Ric said if the City aided another community it would be a volunteer participation but the City would be reimbursed by the community that requested the aid.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Ric said staff did not ask legal counsel to review the document. Ric said staff is always concerned about the cost of legal counsel reviewing documents. He said staff felt legal counsel would more than likely okay the City enter into the agreement because 18 other entities/communities are currently members of the network, (City of Salem, EWEB, SUB). He said currently attorney fees in the General Fund are almost double the budgeted amount. He said it would cost approximately \$1200 to have legal counsel review the document.

Mayor Brooker thanked staff for looking at the other side of having legal counsel review the agreement. He was mostly concerned about insurance coverage.

MOTION: Darrell Carman made a motion to approve the City enter into the ORWARN Mutual Aide Agreement. Sharon Hobart-Hardin seconded the motion.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Ric said now that Council has directed staff to enter into the Agreement, legal counsel would review the document.

MOTION: VOTE, 5-0.

Jerri asked the Council members to stay a few moments after tonight's meeting so she could hand out the 2008-09 Budget Committee notebooks. She said the first meeting will be Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. and dinner will be provided.

b. CITY ADMINISTRATOR RIC INGHAM

(1) County Transfer & Recycling Report

Ric said as part of the franchise renewal agreement, County Transfer & Recycling (CTR) would be providing residents with a larger roll cart for recycling.

Scott Johnson of CTR provided a letter to the Council outlining their upgraded recycling service. He said eventually they will have a fully automated system. He said the proposed recycling cart is the same size as the yard debris cart (95 gallons). They hope to start offering the larger recycling cart by the end of June or first of July. He said CTR is planning a town hall meeting and will have a representative from the recycling center demonstrate how to use the cart and explain the pick up schedule. He said pick-up of the carts will alternate weekly. One week the yard debris cart will be picked up and the following week the recycling cart will be picked up. He said this schedule will be followed on a regular basis. He said a smaller, 65 gallon cart will be available on a case by case basis.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Scott said residents will not have a choice between the 95 and 65 gallons carts. He said the 65 gallons carts will only be offered to the elderly and disabled. He said by using the 95 gallon cart, people will see a reduction in their garbage service once they start recycling more. Scott said once the program is implemented they should be able to get one garbage truck off the streets per week.

Darrel Carman expressed some concern that three large rolling carts take up a lot of space.

Scott reminded everyone the City wide clean up is Saturday, May 5, 2008 at the Bolton Hill Public Works yard. He said CTR's garbage pick up schedule is on the website.

(2) Award of Bid for Well 11

Ric provided the Council with a construction bid summary from Jerry Elliott for the Well 11 connection and chlorine feed. After conducting some research, Jerry Elliott recommended Pacific Excavation for the project. He said they were the low bid with \$87,500. Jerry Elliott's original bid was \$94,000 which included the well drilling equipment among other things. Ric said staff wanted no delays and directed Christianson Well Drilling to order the pump, motor and pitless adapter at an approximate cost of \$8,000. He said \$100,000 was budgeted for this project. He said as soon as it's authorized Jerry can get Pacific Excavation moving on the project. Jerry has been given specific instructions that the project must be completed by June 15, 2008. Staff requested Council to authorize Jerry Elliott to enter into a contract with Pacific Excavation.

MOTION: Sharon Hobart-Hardin made a motion to approve Jerry Elliott award the construction bid of Well 11 to Pacific Excavation at a not to exceed amount of \$95,000. Marion Esty seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

(3) Pool Consultant Request

City staff is currently assessing the possibility of the City hiring a consulting firm to assist with various aspects of the City's proposed ballot measure for construction of a new swimming pool. City staff has met with potential consultants, but do not yet have a proposed scope of work or a bid of what the cost of such assistance might be.

Based on the response from the consulting firm staff should have a better idea of the costs involved. Staff suggested keeping the consulting costs related to the ballot measure and pool project below \$12,000. Staff has begun to identify possible funding sources for this work. Ric said Brian and Jerri identified about \$18,000 remaining in the Pool Evaluation and Development fund which could be used to help jump start the process.

Staff requested the Council direct staff to hire a consultant to determine the full costs and scope of work that will be undertaken. Ric suggested the Council set a maximum spending amount on the consultant fee. Ric said the consultant would work through the survey material, draft the ballot language and a submittal which would go into the voters pamphlet.

MOTION: Thomas Cotter made a motion to enter into a contract with a pool consultant at an amount not to exceed \$18,000 and that the contract will be in place prior to the May 12, 2008 City Council meeting. Sharon Hobart-Hardin seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

c. CITY RECORDER SHERYL HACKETT

- (1) **Ordinance 481** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 348, SECTION 1 AND ORDINANCE 387, SECTION 8, Section 1.

Sheryl provided a revised Ordinance 481 that contained formatting changes only. She said the election dates for filing initiatives referred to in two sections of the City's election code refer to two sections of the City Charter that are incorrect. She said the City Charter was amended after the election code and at that time two of the reference numbers in the election code did not get updated to match the new section numbers in the Charter. Ordinance 481 is considered a "housekeeping" ordinance that will make the code consistent with the Charter.

MOTION: Sharon Hobart-Hardin made a motion to approve Ordinance 481 for the first reading by title only. Thomas Cotter seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

Ordinance 481 was read into the record by title only.

6. OTHER

Ric said a Coordinated Population meeting was held on April 23, 2008. He said five cities including three represented by Speer Hoyt, (Creswell, Junction City and Veneta) representatives from the Land Conservation, Lane County counsel and planning staff attended the meeting. Ric said all parties agreed to a recommendation encouraging the Board of Commissioner to adopt the LCOG numbers by Ordinance and conduct a post acknowledgment planning process. He said the State felt LCOG developed the coordinated population numbers correctly and followed protocol. He said Commissioner Fleenor felt the process should be scrapped and started over from the beginning. Ric

asked the Council to get more involved in contacting Commissioner Fleenor if the opportunity presented itself.


In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Ric said the City did not initiate the eviction of the homeless camps on the Watters property, the property owners did. He said the deputies were asked by the property owners to post the no trespassing signs and disburse the occupants of the camps.

Thomas Cotter asked if staff would give the Council prior notice before the City takes this kind of action in the future.

Staff agreed.

7. ADJOURN

Mayor Brooker adjourned the Veneta City Council at 8:11 p.m.



Mayor T. J. Brooker

Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder